



Mill City Grows

GROWING A
HEALTHIER LOWELL ONE
LOT AT A TIME

March 20, 2015





Fostering food justice and improving physical health, economic independence and environmental sustainability in Lowell through increased access to land, locally-grown food and education.



Co-Founders:
Francey Slater &
Lydia Sisson stringing
tomatoes at our Urban
Farm in Lowell



Overview

Mill City Grows History
Urban Farm
Social Enterprise & Food Access





Mill City Grows History



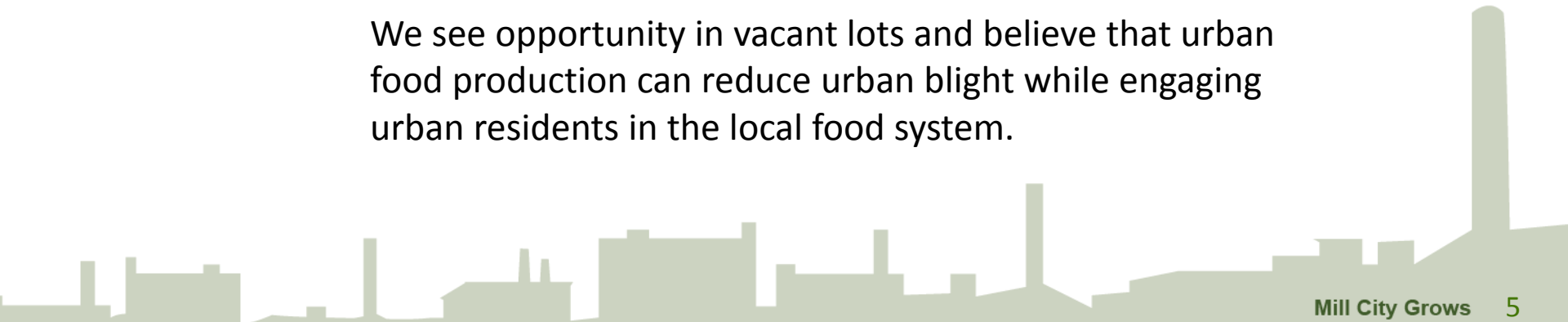
2012 - Mill City Grows was born. Rotary Club Park Community Garden grew out of a collaboration between the City of Lowell and a neighborhood group.

2013 - Two new Community Gardens, built our first Urban Farm, and built our first school garden

2014 - a FoodCorps Serive Site, built our Mobile Market, and added a second Urban Farm site



We see opportunity in vacant lots and believe that urban food production can reduce urban blight while engaging urban residents in the local food system.









Our Sites

- 4 Community Gardens with 450 gardeners in 2015
- 2 Urban Farm sites growing over 15,000 lbs of produce in 2015
- 6 School Gardens at Lowell Public Schools
- 9 gardens installed with partner sites in 2 years



Mill City Grows' Urban Farms





Educational & Production Spaces





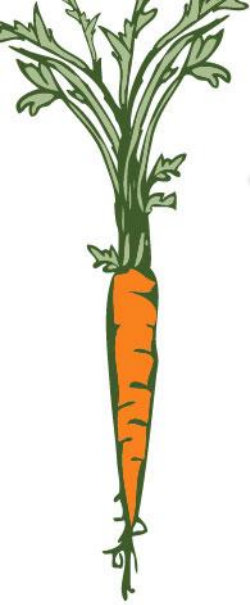
Engaging residents in local food





Mill City Grows' Mobile Market





Season Extension





Social Enterprise

2013: 1/8th of an acre, \$12,000 gross revenue, 3,000 pounds distribution

2014: 5/8th of an acre; \$30,000 gross revenue, 10,000 pounds distributed

2015 goals: 1 1/8 acre under production, generating \$75,000 an acre



Multiple bottom lines-
Meeting the needs of low income residents,
generating revenue for operations,& creating new markets for local foods



Urban Food Production

